



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

b6
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/545,111	04/06/2000	Anthony J. Antonious	ADA-119	9274
21884	7590	02/11/2004	EXAMINER	
WELSH & FLAXMAN LLC 2450 CRYSTAL DRIVE SUITE 112 ARLINGTON, VA 22202			PASSANITI, SEBASTIANO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3711	

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004
19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/545,111	ANTONIOUS, ANTHONY J. <i>[Signature]</i>	
	Examiner Sebastiano Passaniti	Art Unit 3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on see detailed Office action.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-41 and 63-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-41 and 63-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is responsive to a REMAND to the examiner from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

Upon further review, the following FINAL rejection is being made of record:

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), a supplemental reissue oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) must be received before this reissue application can be allowed.

Claims 1-41 and 63-72 STAND rejected as being based upon a defective reissue declaration under 35 U.S.C. 251. See 37 CFR 1.175. The nature of the defect is set forth above.

Receipt of an appropriate supplemental oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) will overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 251. An example of acceptable language to be used in the supplemental oath/declaration is as follows:

"Every error in the patent which was corrected in the present reissue application, and is not covered by a prior oath/declaration submitted in this application, arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicant."

The original patent, or an affidavit or declaration as to loss or inaccessibility of the original patent, must be received before this reissue application can be allowed. Applicant's attention is directed to 37 C.F.R. §1.178.

The rejection of claims 63-72 under 35 USC 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened subject matter surrendered in the application has been WITHDRAWN.

Note the following reasons:

The recapture rejection asserts that the omission of a *rigidity limitation* (referring to ",said insert being at least as rigid as said tubular section" which was added to

independent claim 1 as part of the July 03, 1996 reply to the first Office action) from reissue claims 63-72 is an improper recapture of subject matter surrendered during prosecution of the original patent. However, because the allowance of independent claim 28 of the original patent was obtained by the addition of a separately argued *size and shape limitation* (referring to two limitations added to the claims in order to obtain the allowance of the patent claims issuing as independent claims 1 and 28 and describing the insert as 1) "being shorter than said tubular section..." and 2) "...the central section extending axially away from the end of said tubular section") in the absence of the *rigidity limitation*, the reissue claims 63-72 which recite the *size and shape limitation* in the absence of the *rigidity limitation* are not a true broadening of the overall scope of the patent claim 28. Thus, when claims 63-72 are compared to claim 28, recapture cannot be evaluated based on the omission of the *rigidity limitation*, since it was never in claim 28. Rather, when claims 63-72 are compared to claim 28, the issue of recapture must be evaluated based on a determination of whether the *size and shape limitation* is present in claims 63-72. In other words, the *size and shape limitation* is an independent surrender-generating limitation, which applies to claims 63-72. A review of the reissue application reveals that while none of claims 63-72 contain the *rigidity limitation*, all of claims 63-72 contain a broadened form of the *size and shape limitation*. The broadening aspect of the *size and shape limitation* is seen by the presence of the first element of the *size and shape limitation* (i.e., the language "being shorter than said tubular section..."), and the absence of the second element of the *size and shape limitation* (i.e., the language "...the central section extending axially away

from the end of the tubular section"). Because the *size and shape limitation*, which is the surrender-generating limitation with respect to claim 28, is present in claims 63-72 in a broadened form (i.e., some vestige of the limitation remains), *Ex Parte Eggert et al.*, Appeal No. 2001-0790 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. May 29, 2003)(a precedential opinion of an expanded panel of the Board) applies such that there is no recapture.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sebastiano Passaniti whose telephone number is 703-308-1006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (6:30-3:00). ↵

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Vidovich can be reached on 703-308-1513. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sebastian Passaniti
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

S.Passaniti/sp
February 9, 2004